

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-10 and 12-17 are pending.

I. The Double Patenting Rejections

Claims 1-4, 6-8 and 14-15 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claim 1-11 of U.S. Patent No. 7,258,921.

Claims 1-4, 6-8 and 14-15 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claim 1-17 of U.S. Patent No. 6,866,934.

To expedite allowance of the present Application, Applicants are submitting herewith a terminal disclaimer to obviate the obviousness-type double patenting rejections over U.S. Patent No. 7,258,921 and U.S. Patent No. 6,866,934.

For the above reasons, it is requested that the obviousness-type double patenting rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

II. Rejoinder

It is respectfully requested that method claims 9, 10, 12, 13, 16 and 17 be rejoined. See MPEP 821.04.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that their claimed invention is allowable and ask that the obviousness type double patenting rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn. Applicants respectfully submit that this case is in condition for allowance and allowance is respectfully solicited.

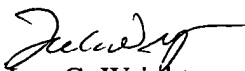
Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Application No. 10/527,636
Attorney Docket No. 043198

If any points remain at issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the local exchange number listed below.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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